

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /043 W

----- 010871

R 150800Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 177

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5861

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: ROYAL DINNER PARTY

1. AMBASSADOR'S PLANNED VISIT TO CHIANG MAI WAS POST-  
PONED BY THE PALACE AND RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18/19.

2. A FEW DAYS AGO PRINCE BHISADEJ MUSED WITH CONSUL  
HARBIN ON THE SUBJECT OF WHETHER A VISIT TO THEIR MAJESTIES  
ON THOSE DAYS WAS ADVISABLE. WE ADVISED HARBIN TO CREATE  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO MUSE AGAIN WITH BHISADEJ ON THIS SUB-  
JECT NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR HARBORED SIMILAR DOUBTS AND  
WAS AWARE OF THE PROXIMITY OF THESE DATES TO MARCH 20.

3. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPLY FROM HARBIN.

A. QTE. PHONED BHISADEJ MORNING MARCH 15 ON PRE-  
TEXT CONFIRMING PLANS FOR YOUR MARCH 18-19 VISIT. WHEN  
I PASSED ON YOUR MESSAGE, HE EMPHASIZED THAT VISIT WAS  
PRIVATE IN NATURE AND, THEREFORE, SAW NO PROBLEM FROM  
HIS MAJESTY'S SIDE. BHISADEJ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MA-

TTER OF MARCH 20 DEADLINE HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED  
AS INTERNAL THAI POLITICAL PROBLEM. HE VOLUNTEERED  
THAT YOUR VISIT AT THIS TIME "MIGHT BE A GOOD THING".

(COMMENT: SUSPECT THIS REMARK DOESN'T NECESSARILY  
REFLECT KING'S OWN JUDGMENT.) PRINCE APPRECIATED

YOUR SENSITIVITY TO HIS MAJESTY'S POSITION AND  
SAID IT YOU DECIDE YOURSELF VISIT IS UNWISE FROM

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POLITICAL STANDPOINT THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND IF YOU

CANCEL OUT.

B. QTE. PRINCE SAID SCHEDULE IS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS LAST WEEK, I.E. YOU AND MRS. WHITEHOUSE ARRIVE IN LATE MORNING MARCH 18, PROCEED TO PRINCE'S CHALET ON PALACE GROUNDS FOR LUNCH; DEPART IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER WITH THEIR MAJESTIES IN MOTORCADE, THIS TIME TO MAE THANG IRRIGATION PROJECT ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS NORTH OF CHIANG MAI; RETURN TO PALACE FOR SMALL INFORMAL DINNER WITH THEIR MAJESTIES; REMAIN OVERNIGHT AT CHALET, THEN RETURN TO BANGKOK FRIDAY MORNING. UNQTE.

4. COMMENT: OUR GUESS HERE IS THAT IF THE KING DOES NOT POSTPONE THE VISIT, IT WILL BE BECAUSE HE WANTS TO MAKE A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S. AT THIS TIME.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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